

A375\_2016AbstractMartinBethanie

## Abstract

Architects have the opportunity to foster relationships with people in a very interesting way, a way that only architects can. We are one of the only generalist professions left that has the chance to step back and see the greater whole behind the small window in front of us. However, in order to do this, we must not focus on architecture solely through the narrowed lens of designing and constructing buildings. We must redefine architecture. We must recognize and value our skills as designers and use them for a greater good. We must see ourselves as difference makers, impacting space and place. We must see people as important too.

In my thesis titled "People Are Important Too," I take the opportunity to reflect on my personal "why architecture" belief system and educational experiences, while comparing that with the careers of three world renowned, socially responsible architects: Marika Shioiri-Clark, Liz Ogbu, and Santiago Cirugeda. In the analysis of these three individuals, I question the belief systems behind their architectural practices and how they are able to reflect these beliefs into the work they do, thus laying the ground work for me to understand what a future in community engaged architecture can look like.

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